

# METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONTENT SERVER SELECTION

## Abstract of the Disclosure

5           Methods and apparatus providing information about characteristics  
associated with a network are described. A network node associated with a client for  
selecting a server that can best provide content to a client transmits a request for a  
response. A plurality of content servers or content routing agents receive requests  
10 corresponding to the request from the network node associated with the client. The  
content servers provide a response and fragment and/or pad datagrams associated with  
the response. The content servers transmit these fragmented and/or padded datagrams  
to the network node associated with the client. The network node associated with the  
client can reassemble and/or trim the received datagrams and identify as optimal the  
15 server that first completes transmission of the response.